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OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

January 2006

JANUARY HAPPENINGS

The January luncheon will be held on Thursday, January 19, at noon at the Kate Lobrano House, 108 Cue Street. Instead of having a speaker at this meeting, we will discuss the election of officers for the coming year. Please join us for a great lunch and wonderful company. Call for reservations as the seating will be limited. Cost of the lunch is \$7.00 payable at the door.



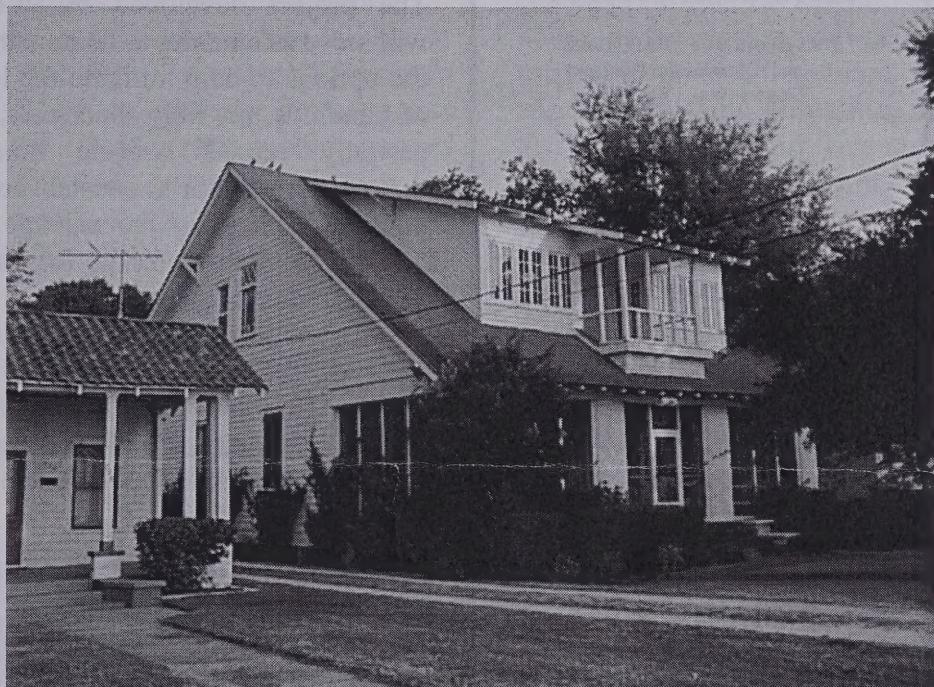
MEMBERSHIP FEES

Membership fees for the 2006 year are currently due. Look on your address label and check the date to see if your membership fees are due. Fees are \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family. If you have any questions please call the office at 467-4090. We will be happy to help.



ADDRESS CHANGES

Many thanks to those of you who have sent us a change of address. If you have not done so, please get in touch with us so that we may update our files.



The Hecker Cottage at 220 North Beach Boulevard and
The Phillips Home at 222 North Beach Boulevard

Groups To Restore Two Historic Bay Homes

Edited by Dale St. Amant from the
Sea Coast Echo, vol. 114, no. 96

Two historic homes along the North Beach Boulevard Historic district in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina, will be preserved as part of a pilot program organized and directed by the

World Monuments Fund (WMF).

Master craftsmen specializing in traditional building trades from across the country and graduate students from the University of Florida's (Gainesville) Historic Preservation program have volunteered their time to assist in the preservation of the two houses.

Using a range of equipment and tools from a small crane to hammers and screwdrivers, tape measurers, drawing materi-

THE

HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

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Closed from 12:00—1:00.

MISSION STATEMENT

"TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION."

als, and more, the technical team will work on the two houses simultaneously.

They will document and disassemble the Hecker Cottage, a mostly destroyed 18th-century shotgun-type house whose historic timber frame, siding, windows and doors and other surviving details will be used for later reconstruction. The project developed by WMF will serve as a model to demonstrate the options to help mitigate the loss of hundreds, possibly thousands, of partially ruined historic homes across Mississippi's coastal communities, including the salvage of historic building materials for reuse or possible reconstruction.

They will assess the conditions of the ca. 1840 center-hall Phillips House to determine a plan for its restoration. With the input from the Mississippi Department of

Archives and History the technical team assembled by WMF will design a period restoration, preserving the surviving architectural fabric and returning the house to its original configuration.

Representatives from WMF, Preservation Trades Network (PTN), the University of Florida's College of Design, Planning and Construction, and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History will meet with members of the Hecker and Phillips families, including 86-year old Charles Hecker, who has been summering in his family's house since 1956. The house was almost demolished by the high winds and especially the storm surge, which reached over thirty feet. Although the house represents decades of memories of taking children and grandchildren to the beach, M



Damage cause by Hurricane Katrina on 8/29/05 to the Phillips home

Hecker has made the decision not to rebuild.

Seventy-five year old Dorothy Phillips had weathered Hurricane Camille in her family home without any problems and decided to do the same with Hurricane Katrina, a decision she soon regretted. She is glad to be alive and glad that her cat, Big Boy, has forgiven her for making him stay through the storm.

This project is part of a joint effort between the World Monuments Fund and Preservation Trades Network, working with the Mississippi Heritage Trust and Mississippi Department of Archives and History, to demonstrate the importance of restoring the Gulf Coast's building heritage as part of the region's long-term reconstruction. Working with local partners and community groups, WMF will help make available to impacted property owners and the public recommendations and resources for preserving and restoring historic houses.

Plan for the Conservation and Storage of Hecker Cottage Artifacts

Edited by Eddie Coleman

An assessment for the conservation of Hecker Cottage has been made by Lou Linden, coordinator of the National Trust for Historic Preservation for cities along the Gulf Coast. The text of this assessment follows.

"After substantial consultation with Scott McDonald...and consultation with Charles Gray, I have determined...[the] most appropriate and practical solution [for] preserving the Hecker Cottage artifacts.

"There are two major consid-

erations. The first is the preservation of the artifacts for an indefinite period (at least two years) and the second is the physical security of the artifacts. The threats to the artifacts are multiple: 1. biological (insects & dry rot), 2. climatic (exposure to the elements and cataclysmic storms), and 3. social (theft, vandalism, loss, or loss of identity).

"I have not been able to find an appropriate building in which to store the artifacts save for one which would require knocking an opening through one wall to bring the Hecker wall inside. Other potential sites would require extensive repair even if available. The height and weight of the wall makes this a much more difficult endeavor. Also, with hurricane season now only six months away, we must think

to avoid the possibility of the artifacts' being destroyed by yet another storm. Storage really should be high enough above sea level and far enough inland to provide the maximum amount of security.

"We propose that WMF [World Monuments Fund] and H.C.H.S. [Hancock County Historical Society] acquire a 'Hi-Cube' container 40 ft. in length. The height of the Hecker wall necessitates a larger than standard container. It will be brought to Bay St. Louis, and the artifacts stored in it after borate treatment. The container would then be lifted again and taken to 22 acres of land owned by Scott about fifteen miles north of Bay St. Louis. The elevation there is approximately 100 ft. above sea level. The land is presently undeveloped although Scott intends on building his house on it



Hecker Cottage 220 North Beach Blvd. prior to 8/29/05

sometime in the future. He has offered the site *gratis*. McDonald and Kirk Construction would provide the labor, and Scott would supervise the preparation, stowage, and delivery to his site. The container could remain on site until such time as the Hancock County Historical Society could find/create a site for the re-erection and interpretation of the structure as a museum. Locating the container to Scott's property also minimizes the chance of its being 'mislaid.' This is potentially a problem if the storage runs into multiple years, especially if there were an interruption of the institutional memories of any of the participating organizations. It also minimizes the threats of vandalism and theft. The budget for this phase of the project is as follows:

1. container purchase— \$3,800.00 from Kent Storage of Ponchatoula, LA. (The purchase of the container can be structured so that the seller will buy it back when the project is completed at some fraction of the purchase price. The contract should be made between H. C. H. S. and the vendor. The resale price of the container could then go to the re-erection of the structure. This should be arranged between H. C. H. S. and W. M. F. and the vendor.);
2. container delivery 2 @ \$200 ea. for a total of \$400;
3. labor (pull nails, borate spray, restack in container)— \$2,500 by McDonald & Kirk of Bay St. Louis
4. miscellaneous materials (dunnage, bracing)— \$200 (The wall will have to sit in the container diagonally. It will be braced at mid-height to avoid



Hecker Cottage after 8/29/05

sagging stresses. If stickering with standard sawn lath is not acceptable, stock will have to be purchased and cut. Otherwise it will be donated.

5. crane to move wall— \$1000.00 from P. & A. Crane [This is just an estimate.] I estimate that the crane will be necessary for one day.
6. Mississippi sales tax 7%— \$553.00.

This estimate totals \$8,453.00."

Help from Many Hands

By Eddie Coleman

Even though the winds of Hurricane Katrina wrought destruction all along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, she also brought many volunteers to our area seeking to help in any way they could. One of these was Lou Linden. He ini-

tially came to the Bay/Waveland area as a volunteer ham radio operator with the Red Cross to aid in restoring communication between Hancock County and other areas of the country. However, before Linden left for the Gulf Coast, Peter Brink, vice-president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), got in touch with him at his home in Baltimore, MD to ask if he could work in the three coastal counties for the NTHP. Ultimately, Mr. Linden was offered and accepted the job as coordinator of the National Trust for Historic Preservation for cities here along the Gulf Coast.

Mr. Linden's job has been to oversee volunteer teams from historic preservation offices from throughout the United States. He has directed groups from New York, North Carolina, Arkansas, and several other states. Com-

posed of structural engineers, architects, and historic preservationists, the teams have assessed damage to historic houses and buildings and helped the owners determine how these structures can be preserved. Because of the expertise of Mr. Linden and these volunteer teams, some structures which had been deemed irreparable have been saved.

There is so much rich history in the buildings in the Bay/Waveland area in particular and in the three coastal counties in general that assessments by these professionals have been necessary as well as desired if we as a community are to salvage even a trace of this heritage which has been handed down and entrusted to us. As a community the people of Hancock County are indebted to Mr. Linden and the teams of historic preservationists.

The "before" pictures in this issue of *The Historian* come from the photo files of the Hancock County Historical Society.

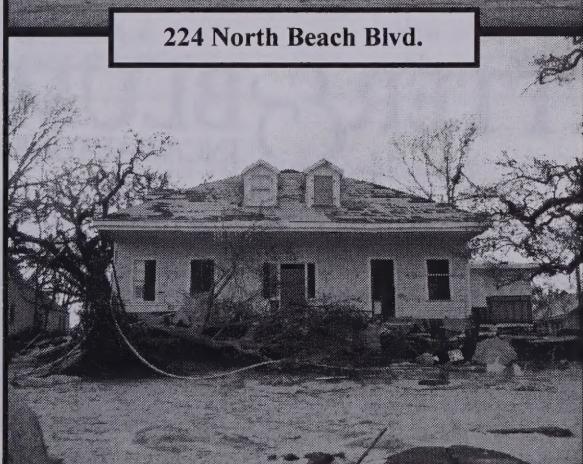
Many of the "after" pictures come from photos taken by structural engineers from throughout the United States who were sent to help assess the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina and to advise home owners about salvaging what could be restored.



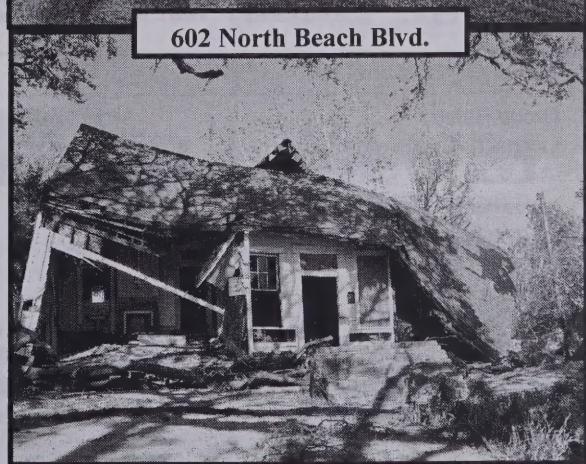
502 North Beach Blvd.



224 North Beach Blvd.



602 North Beach Blvd.





Joinery of Hecker Cottage

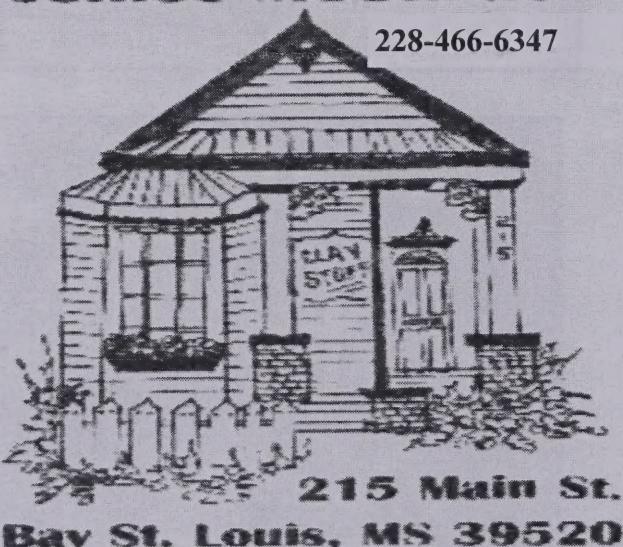
At left is an example of the peg mortise and tenon joinery used in the construction of Hecker Cottage.

INTERNET SERVICE

Because of the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, internet service at the Kate Lobrano House has been interrupted. We do, however, expect things to be up and running shortly, and we will have a new internet provider. An updated e mail address will appear in a future newsletter.

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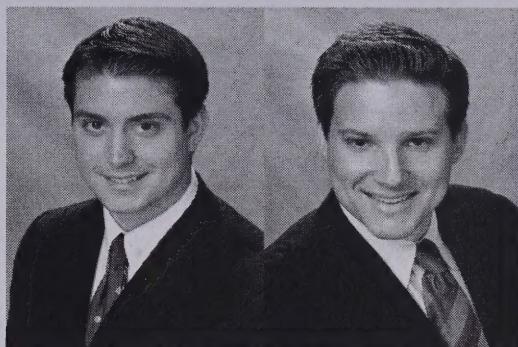
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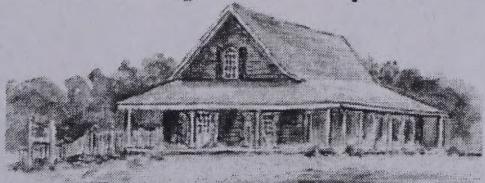
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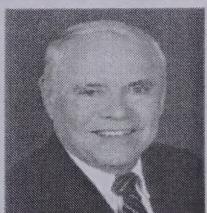
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